THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The State Government of Karnataka have forwarded 14 proposals aggregating to a length of 4810 km for declaration as new National Highways during the 8th Plan. However, owing to the meagre allocation of funds for National Highways during the 8th Plan, it is difficult to declare any new National Highway at this stage.

Abolition of Octroi

3036. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assocham and other Associations have asked for abolition of Octroi;

(b) if so, the details of this representation;

(c) whether any study has been done on the impact of Octroi abolition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Assocham and some other associations had in their representation to the Government and the Committee of Chief Ministers set up by the Government to examine the issues related to octroi, asked for abolition of octroi and finding a suitable alternative, which is acceptable to all concerned. The Jyoti Basu Committee has come to the conclusion that octroi is protected by Entry 52 of the State List and there was no question of its abolition or substitution.

(c) and (d) A study on the impact of octroi abolition has already been entrusted to the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi.

Shipping Centre in Madras Port

3037. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madras is emerging as a shipping centre in view of the large volume of goods that are being exported from Madras Port for the last one year; and

(b) if so, the total tonnage of goods that are being exported for the last three years through sea route and how many of the shipping industries have shown interest for sailing from Madras Port;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figures of cargo loaded from Madras Port for shipment overseas for the last three years are as given below:

Year	Million Tonnes
1991-92	7.80
1992-93	7.07
1993-94	8.10*

During the year 1993-94, seventy Shipping Lines mainly operated from the Port of Madras.

*Provisional figure.

दिल्ली में आटोरिक्शाओं के चालकों द्वारा मीटरों मे छेड़छाड़

3038. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में आधे से अधिक आटोरिक्शाओं के मीटर ठीक ढंग से काम नहीं कर रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या गलत मीटरों का पता लगाने के लिए ही जांच की जाती है;